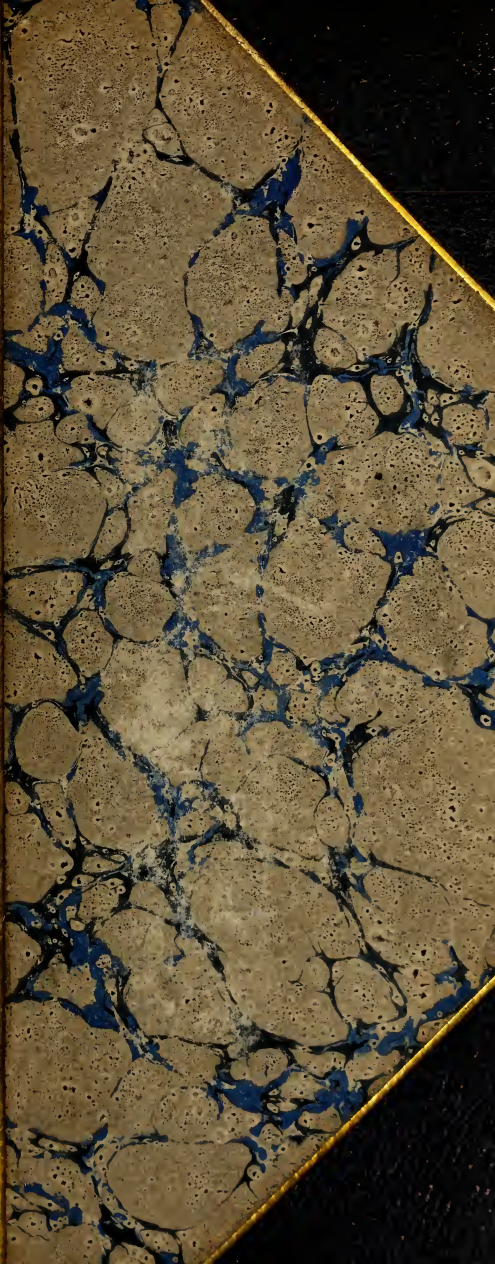

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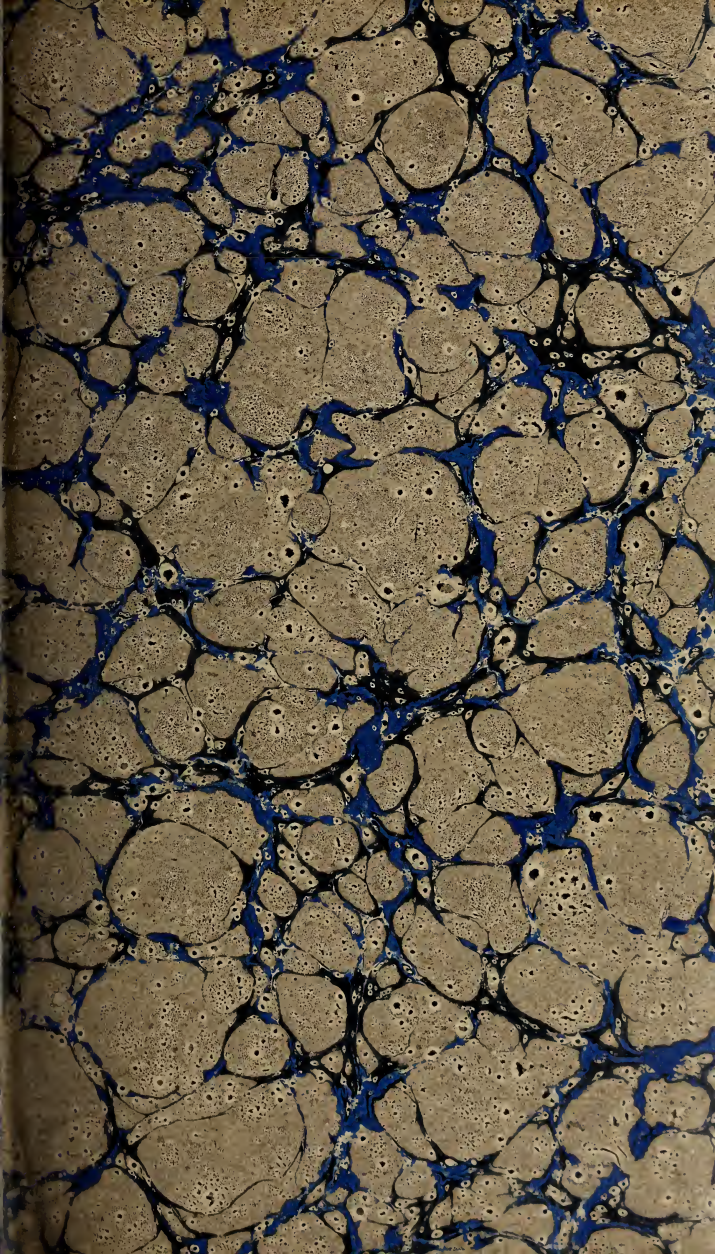

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Youth's Library.

ROYAL RIDDLE-BOOK;

BEING

A CHOICE SELECTION

OF THE

MOST POPULAR GUESSES

NOW EXTANT.

PAISLEY:
Printed by Stephen Young.
for
CALDWELL, JUN. 69, HIGH-STREET.

1825.
(Price One Half-penny.)

A FISH.

Though it be cold, I wear no clothes,
The frost and snow I never fear;
I value neither shoes nor hose,
And yet I wander far and near.

A ROBIN REDBREAST.

I've the name of a man,
Yet I'm small as a mouse;
In winter I'm oft seen
With red vest near the house.

A DOG.

Though you seem of me fond,
For your safety provide,
And when you walk abroad
Take me oft by your side,
Yet, when old age advances,
You cast me away,
And I to your frowns
Fall an innocent prey.

A CAT.

In almost every house I'm seen
(No wonder then I'm common,)
I'm neither man, nor maid, nor child,
Nor yet a married woman.

A TREE.

Old Mother Old stands in the cold,
Her children die with age;
Yet still she lives, and brings forth young,
And every one without a tongue.

A CANNON.

I am the terror of mankind;
My breath is flame, and by its power
I urge my messenger to find
A way into the strongest tower.

BOOKS.

With words unnumber'd I abound:
In me mankind do take delight;
In me much learning's to be found;
Yet I can neither read nor write.

A SHIP.

Without a leg full swift I go,
With horse or coach I ride;
E'en my Lord Mayor would make no show
If I did not attend his side.

A KING.

What fortune gives I wear in state;
A little thing does make me great.
All admire me when I wear it,
Yet cares attend all those that bear it.

A PAIR OF SPECTACLES.

Without a bridle or a saddle,
Across a thing I ride a-straddle,
And those I ride, by help of me,
Though almost blind, are made to see.

A PAIR OF SHOES.

Two brothers we are,
Great burdens we bear,
By which we are bitterly prest

In truth we may say,
We are full all the day,
And empty when we go to rest.

THE WIND.

I through the town do take my flight,
And through the fields and meadows green;
And whether it be day or night,
I never was nor can be seen.

THE SUN.

I view the world in little space,
I'm always restless, changing place;
No food I eat, but by my power
Procure what millions do devour.

A PAIR OF BELLOWS.

I daily breathe, say what you will,
And yet I have no life;
I kindle feuds, but never kill
Nor cause the smallest strife.

A HORSE.

To king and subject I assistance lend,
In war a firm ally, in peace a friend;
To their diversions am a perfect slave,
At home submissive, but in battle brave,
To poor and prelate I give health and ease,
The lady, merchant, and the peasant please;
Nay of such general use is my employment,
Without me life would scarce be worth enjoyment.

SHEEP.

Ladies, attend; a humble slave
Your kind attention dares to crave,—
If plurally you read my name,
Or singular, 'tis the same.
My offspring's pure, without offence,
The sacred type of innocence.

THE SUN.

In Iceland or Greenland, I'm but little known,
As seldom unto them my beauties are shewn.

THE LEGS.

We seldom touch the earth, though we always go to the ground, always born together, every body takes great care of us, and those who lose us are much distressed.

THE SEA.

I bear much, devour much, and reach from pole to pole.

A COCK.

For vigilance and courage true
I've no superior, equals few;
Bold and alert I meet the foe,
In all engagements valour show;
And if he proves too proud to yield,
One falls before we quit the field.

A BEAR.

Fierce, obdurate, cruel, strong,
Frightful to the old and young;

Yet, by early education,
Hit the taste of every nation,
Dance and exercise my staff,
But to make spectators laugh;
And though awkward in my mien,
I often on the stage am seen.

A BEE.

There's a little short gentleman
That wears the yellow trews,
A dirk below his doublet
For sticking of his foes;
Yet in a singing posture
Where'er you do him see,
And if you offer violence
He'll stab his dirk in thee.

A TEA KETTLE.

My body is both plump and round,
With comely neck and breast,
No brighter creature would be found
Were I but oftener drest;
But daily I am wearied so
By being used much,
I black as any negro go,
Nor scarce am fit to touch.

A WHIP.

Great virtues have I,
There's none can deny,
And to this I shall mention an odd one;
When applied to the tail,
'Tis seldom I fail
To make a good boy of a bad one.

A PAIR OF SCALES.

Two twins we are, and let it not surprise,
Alike in every feature, shape, and size;
We're square or round, of brass or iron made,
Sometimes of wood, and useful found in trade;
But to conclude, for all our daily pains,
We by the neck are often hung in chains.

A TREE.

In spring I look gay,
Deck'd in comely array,
In summer more clothing I wear;
When colder it grows,
I fling off my clothes,
And in winter quite naked appear.

MOON.

There was a thing a full month old,
When Adam was no more:
But ere that thing was five weeks old,
Adam was five score.

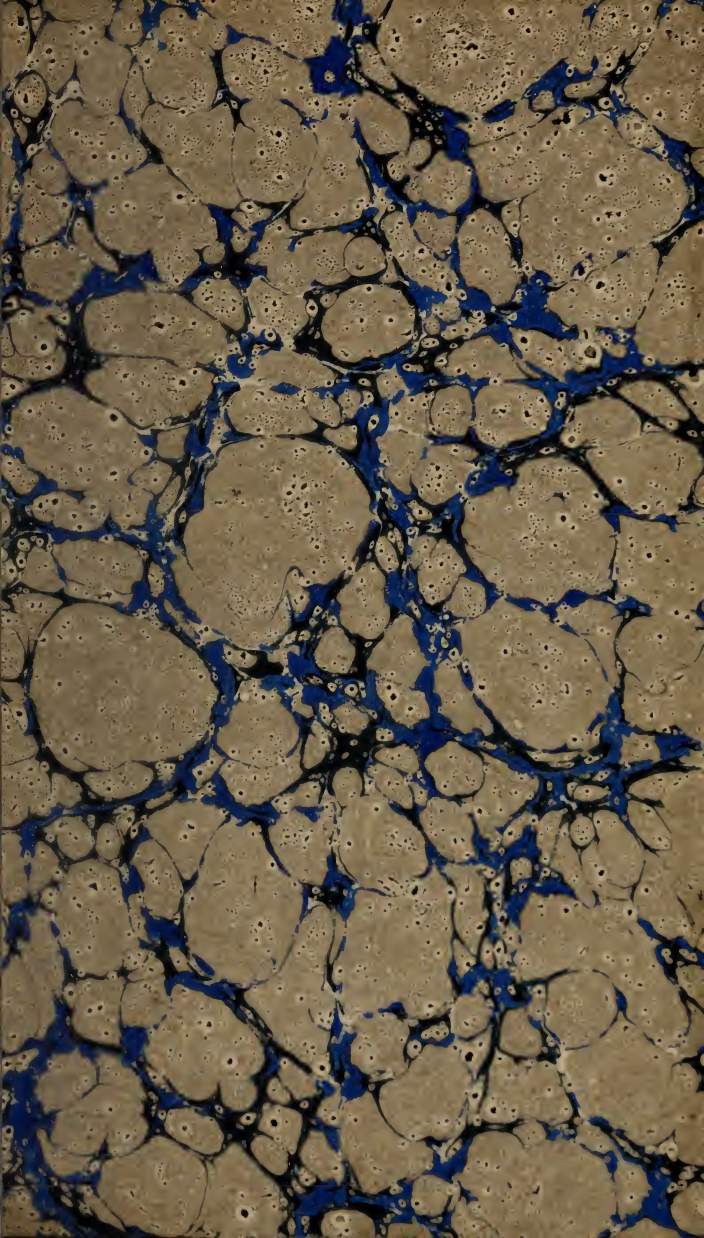
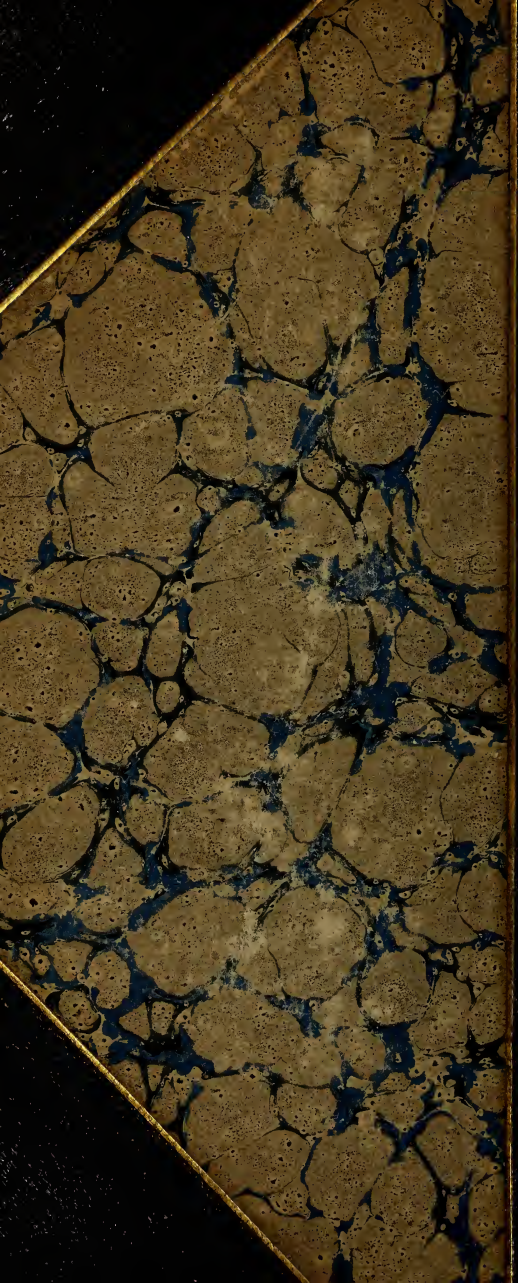
A SHIP.

I fly to many foreign parts
Assisted by my spreading wings;
My body holds an hundred hearts,
Nay, I will tell you stranger things:
When I am not in haste, I ride,
And then I mend my pace anon;
I issue fire out from my side,
Ye British youths this riddle con.

A DRUM.

May I, ye Ladies, now prevail
  Upon you to declare my name;
My head is round and so's my tail,
  As for my body it's the same.
I oft am bound, and beaten too,
  Yet none there are that pity take;
Those who my heavy drubbings view
  Are pleased at the noise I make.

THE WONDER,
OR
RIDDLE OF RIDDLES.

I saw a man
Who saw a peacock with a fiery tail;
I saw a comet shower down hail;
I saw the clouds curl'd with ivy round;
I saw an oak creep on the ground;
I saw an ant swallow up a whale;
I saw the sea brim full of ale;
I saw a glass full fifteen feet deep;
I saw a well with tears to weep;
I saw men's eyes all in a flame of fire;
I saw a house high as the moon and
  higher;
I saw the sun at 12 o'clock at night;
I saw two men who saw this wondrous
  sight.

THE END.